



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE COOK  
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Testimony By  
Representative Michelle Cook, 65<sup>th</sup> District  
On H.B. 6066, AA Increasing the Fine for Using a Mobile Telephone Without a Hands-Free  
Device While Operating a Motor Vehicle  
March 6, 2009

Sen. DeFronzo, Rep. Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Michelle Cook and I am the State Representative from the 65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in Torrington. I am writing today in support of H.B. 6066.

My support for this bill is derived from my conversations with law enforcement in my district. In the past year, the City of Torrington issued over 600 summonses for violations of the statute you are seeking this year to amend. The biggest lament these officers have is that they feel the amount of the fine is not a large enough deterrent to this behavior. Coupled with the sporadic nature of the enforcement of this offense, many motor vehicle operators throughout the state act as though this statute does not exist.

I also gently suggest to the committee that it look into adjusting the suspension of the fine related to this bill. I suggest that for first time violators this fine not be suspended, but halved to a total of \$100. This would provide for the same monetary incentive for obtaining a hands-free device while also maintaining a penalty for those who, by now, should be well aware of the dangers related to this violation.

As cell phones become more ubiquitous in our society, so to does the pervasiveness of this offense. Thus, I ask for your support of this legislation.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Cook".

Michelle Cook  
State Representative, 65<sup>th</sup> District